GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3834
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
TASK FORCE ON ICHAMATI RIVER
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force has been constituted to revive the Ichamati River in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) the allocation made by the Government during the current year alongwith amount spent on the project; and

(d) the time by which the revival of Ichamati river would be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. An Indo-Bangladesh Task Force was constituted by Government of India in April, 2002 for flood management in the Ichamati basin. So far, the Task Force had three meetings and based on the recommendations of Task Force, a joint survey of common border stretch of river Ichamati has been conducted.

(c) & (d) The Flood Management being within the purview of State Government, the schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. As informed by Government of West Bengal, the Irrigation & Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal has earmarked a sum of Rs. 25.44 crore for resuscitation of river Ichamati for length of 24.9 kms within Indian territory. A sum of Rs. 10.5 crore has so far been spent by Government of West Bengal.

The execution of works in the common border stretch will depend on the consent of Bangladesh for which discussions were held in 36th meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held in September, 2005 at Dhaka.